

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Application No.: 10/781,907

Attorney Docket No.: Q78876

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please replace Figs. 1, 2 and 9 with the following replacement drawings submitted herewith.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claim 1. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-14 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 10-14 are withdrawn from consideration. In response to the Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims define patentable subject matter.

I. Preliminary Matters

The Examiner objects to the drawings, and asserts that FIGS. 1, 2, and 9 should be labeled Prior Art. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended the drawings to label FIGS. 1, 2, and 9 "Related Art".

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claim 1 in order to improve clarity. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to remove the § 112 rejection of claims 1-3.

Claims 4-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that:

[t]he term "gender changer" in claims 4-9 is used by the claim to mean "converting a connector (plug/receptacle) of one type to a connector of another type, but the same gender", while the accepted meaning is "converting a connector (plug/receptacle) of one gender to a connector of another gender, but the same type."

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's position. First, the Examiner appears to be misinterpreting the claim language. The claimed invention does not limit the

“gender changer” to the conversion of a connector of one type and a specific gender to a connector of a second type and the same gender. Further, the Examiner’s assertion that the “accepted meaning” of a gender changer is “converting a connector...of one gender to a connector of another gender, but the same type” is clearly erroneous.

Gender changers are devices that change the end of a specific type of cable into another type, allowing two cable assemblies with the same or different genders to mate. Male connectors are devices that contain solid pins and, optionally, connectors that snap into place. Female connectors are devices that receive pins to form an electrical connection. There are four types of gender changers: male, female, male-to-female, and female-to-male. Accordingly, contrary to the Examiner’s assertion, a gender changer does not only connect a connector of one gender to a connector of another gender. Gender changers which connect connectors of the same gender are also available. Male gender changers are male on both sides and used to mate two female-ended cables that could not otherwise be connected to each other. Similarly, female gender changers are female on both sides and used to mate two male-ended cables that could not otherwise be connected to each other. Male-to-female gender changers convert a male connector into a female connector that can be mated with another male connector. Female-to-male connectors change a female connector into a male connector that can be mated with another female connector. Further, gender changers are used with many types of RF and microwave connectors.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the claim language is both definite and proper, and respectfully request that the Examiner remove the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

IV. Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over newly cited Kao (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0033726).

Kao discloses USB plug (paragraph [0010]) 50 having a plurality of pins (terminals) 52 on a top of the plug body; a receptacle 20 having a body for receiving the plug, and a plurality of pins (terminals) 22 inside the receptacle body (paragraph [0038]). The plurality of receptacle pins 22 are disposed in correspondence to the plurality of pins of the plug so as to be electrically connected (paragraph [0038]). Kao also discloses that the plurality of pins of the plug and the plurality of pins of the receptacle are electrically connected when the plug 50 is connected with the receptacle 20 (lines 1-7 of paragraph [0038]).

There is no teaching or suggestion in Kao of “a card type plug having a plug body and a plurality of pins on a top of the plug body and a card type receptacle having a receptacle body receiving the card type plug therein” as recited in independent claim 1 and analogously required by independent claim 4. Kao describes a USB plug and a USB receptacle, but does not teach or suggest a card type plug or card type receptacle as required by the claims. FIGS 15 and 16 of Kao illustrate the USB plug or USB receptacle of the memory card, but do not disclose the card-type plug or receptacle.

An important feature of the claimed invention is that the card-type USB connector allows an external device employing the card-type USB connector not to be exposed out over a main device when it is combined with the main device, by providing a card-type plug or receptacle for

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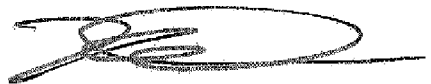
the card-type USB connector. This feature cannot be achieved by Kao, since KAO does not disclose a USB connector or gender converter which has the card-type plug or receptacle.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 4 should be allowable because the cited reference does not teach or suggest all of the features of the claims. Claims 2, 3, and 5-9 should also be allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on independent claims 1 and 4.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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